

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on August 26, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Watson post office located in Watson, Alabama. The petition for review was filed by Lori Rich Parsons (Petitioner) and is postmarked August 23, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than September 12, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: August 29, 2011

Attachment

To Whom It May Concern at the Postal Regulatory Commission:

A 2011-56

RECEIVED

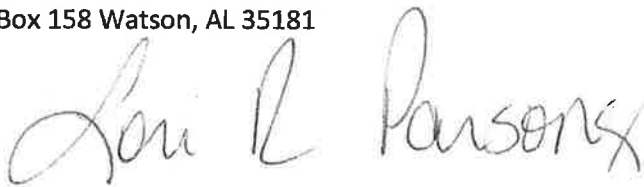
2011 AUG 26 PM 4:08
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This is in response to the Final Determination to close the Watson, AL (35181) Post Office. I am requesting that this decision be reviewed and changed to "operating" as normal business. The Watson PO is very important to the community. It is also the only "shelter bus stop" within 3 miles of the next shelter stop. The Watson PO has provided effective and efficient services to the community for many decades. The Watson PO also provided excellent service to the "discontinued" postal customers of the Brookside Post Office during their transition after their PO was condemned due to a flood. On April 29, 2009 the USPS conducted a meeting to discuss the new CPU that was to be located in Brookside. The outcome of the meeting was that no one in Watson was in favor of the move. All the "upgrades" that were mentioned are nonexistent – no more parking is available there than currently at Watson. Actually fewer services are available at the new CPU – they do not accept debit/credit cards at that location, they do not have additional hours as advertised. As a customer that only uses a debit card I would never be able to buy stamps/services at that location. Why was the community of Watson not given the same consideration to operate a CPU? When was the town hall meeting for Watson? It states in several documents that the lease was set to expire at the end of 2009 for the Watson PO, when it actually had already been renewed to extend it to 2013. The Brookside PO was the one that was not going to get it lease renewed. The Watson PO was never suppose to have been considered for consolidation. It actually had more revenue than the Brookside PO. The elected officials of the City of Brookside have continued to solicit the move of the Watson PO. It is not in the best interest for the community and the greater county of Jefferson County to close the Watson PO. If you review all the responses no one will move to the CPU and will then be added to an already overcrowded Gardendale PO. Almost all will then be added to a delivery route that will then require that an additional resources will be needed at the Gardendale location to accommodate the deliveries and service. The documents are not truthful – the Brookside has no growth and the Watson area was recently quoted in the Birmingham News for 9% growth while the City of Brookside was a negative %. Why would you close a PO that is in a growing area to move it to a stagnant area? The USPS management team at the Birmingham home district office has continued to state that the final determination was going to be determined by the wants of the customers. The customers have spoken that they do not want to move to a PO that is not able to accommodate them and they do not have additional services to offer. If the USPS made decisions based up customers maybe the overall revenue would not be declining a steady pace.

Also – when this first came to public knowledge that the USPS was considering this consolidation – it actually was already a signed contract. The reasoning for the "sole source" is not a valid or lawful bid process. It was stated the reason the Watson community was not included was because they were not going to be affected yet then the reason for the "sole source" was that the City of Brookside had already built the building to accommodate both PO.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lori Rich Parsons PO Box 158 Watson, AL 35181



Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

AUG 24 2011

To the
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue N W Suite 200
Washington, D C 20268-0001
My name is,
George W Miller Jr P.O. box 87 Watson Al. 35181

I hereby oppose the proposed closing of the Watson Al. Post Office (35181) for a number of reasons. There was a flood at the town of Brookside Al. and the U.S. post office closed it and moved its customers to our post office at Watson Al. That should have been the end of it. The town of Brookside Al. then started negotiating with the Postal service personnel in Birmingham Al. Wanting them to allow Brookside to open a C.P.O.post office. The postal service personnel then sent out a notice of a meeting to be held at the Brookside Town Hall and explained its reasons why they should allow Brookside to operate a C.P.O. and move Watson customers to Brookside. In this notice that was posted there were a lot of mis-information namely the distance from Watson to Brookside was incorrect, the savings cost of allowing the C.P.O.to open and others which I can't remember now. The Meeting at the Brookside town hall was held on April 29th. 2009 and a number of postal personnel was there. I and others pointed out the incorrect information and I was not satisfied with the answers. In my opinion some information that was in the notice was put in to justify their proposal to close our Watson post office.

There is one other piece of information that I feel you should look into . The meeting that was held on April the 29th. by the postal service personnel at the Brookside town hall was to discuss the proposal to close the Watson Post office and move us to the C.P.O. at Brookside . No action was supposed to be taken until sometime after the community could have their voices heard. The C.P.O. contract between the U.S.Postal Service and The Town of Brookside Al. was signed on April the 28th 2009 the day before the meeting was held. At the meeting the question was asked if the post office personnel had already decided to open the Brookside C.P.O and close the Watson post office and we were assured that no decision had been made and would not be made until our opinions were carefully gone over. FOR SHAME, FOR SHAME. I wonder what the postal service would have wanted to do to me if the situation were reversed? Is there any wonder why there is so little confidence in government? If I did anything like this I could not hold my head up . I would not want to face people.

I am attaching a copy of a letter I sent Mr. Michael A. Allison (manager, Post Office operations area 111). I used it to speak at the April 29th meeting held at the Brookside town hall. Mr. Allison was at this meeting.

I respectfully ask that the Watson Al. 35181 Post office be kept open and respectfully ask why the United States Postal Service would hold a meeting to hear the voices of a community asking that their post office be kept open knowing that in fact the C.P.O. contract was signed the day before?

George W Miller Jr.



Michael A Allison
Manager, Post Office operations Area 111

Dear Sir,

My name is George W Miller Jr. I have been living at 2076 Republic Road, Post office box 87 Watson Al. 35181 since 1965. I was raised approx. One mile from here in Republic Al. and the Watson post office was open even then . Although I do not know how long the Watson post office has been in existence, I can say for sure that the Watson Post Office has been open for at least 65 years but I believe 70 years plus. The post office is approx. 400 yards from my home and is easily accessible to myself and wife both of which are 65 years old . I said all that to say this,

- 1---The Watson Post office has endured for ~~approx. 70 years~~ *108 YEARS.*
- 2---The Watson Post Office has never been closed for
 - a---war
 - b---flood
 - c---hurricane or tornado
 - d---famine or any other diaster
- 3---The Brookside Post Office was closed because of a flood, **not the Watson Post Office.**
- 4---if the Watson Post Office was closed because of flooding or any other diaster, and the Post Office department decided it was better not to re-open it and move Watson customers to Brookside, then I would not have opposed it. **Again, the Brookside Post Office was closed, not Watson's Post Office.**
- 5---I do not think the town of Brookside should be running a Post Office. **I feel the United States Postal Service should be running it.**
- 6---Brookside's customers **have already been moved to Watson's Post Office** and are already being served there.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion,
George W Miller Jr.

George W Miller Jr
I read this letter to the Postal Service
Personnel at the April 29th meeting at Brookside
Town Hall.

Postal Regulatory Commission
901- New York Avenue N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

The Postal Service has informed us of a decision to consolidate the Watson, Alabama Post Office with the Brookside Alabama C.F.O. As a customer of the Watson office I vigorously protest this action.

The Postal Service's decision to convert our post office to a contract community post office raises questions concerning the sanctity of the mail and the risks involved in the handling of mail by non-career employees. We also know the lessee can sub-lease the contract and hire substandard help and that the contract can be terminated with cause by either party.

The provision in the Postal Reorganization Act calls for the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas and communities where the post office is not self sustaining.

Much of the information in the proposal the postal service submitted was incorrect. After many phone calls, letters and meetings most of it was corrected. The community has two churches within a mile of the post office and they refused to correct that.

On April 29, 2009 a town hall meeting was scheduled at Brookside City Hall. The Mayor of Brookside, postal officials Reginald Caspers, Mike Allison, Carligna Goree, April Williams, Stevie Mason and Rafael Brathwaite were all in attendance. As the meeting proceeded it was apparent they wanted the CPO in Brookside. They were asked on two occasions if the decision was already made - they said "No" - the town hall meeting would be the deciding factor. After our community wrote many letters, had many meetings, made many phone calls we discovered a contract had been signed by Postal officials and the Mayor of Brookside on April 28, 2009, the day before the town hall meeting. How Unfair!!! How Untruthful!!!

Geographically, the Watson Post Office is located at a crossroads feeding in from other communities. We have just begun to grow. I feel the Watson Community has been discriminated against by the Postal Service. We were not allowed to have a town hall meeting to voice our concerns just a notice at the post office stating we will close this office on Nov. 5, 2011.

The information in the proposal to close our office is two years old. No P.O. should be closed with ~~out~~ dated

Brookside CPO does not accept debit/credit cards - crucial in today's world.

As citizens of the United States our community feels we are entitled to the same efficient postal service provided to our counterparts in urban areas. The Postal Reorganization Act is explicit in pointing this out. I petition you as members of the Postal Regulatory Commission, to respectfully consider our communities protest and order the Postal Service, to give additional considerations to our service needs.

Respectfully
Ann A. Parsons
P.O. Box 37

Postal Regulatory Commission
901. NEW YORK AVENUE N.W. SUITE 200
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

I AM A RETIRED POLICE CHIEF FROM BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA AND HAVE LIVED IN THE WATSON COMMUNITY FOR FORTY YEARS. MY WIFE AND MOTHER-IN-LAW ARE RETIRED POSTMASTERS FROM THE WATSON POST OFFICE, SO THE POSTAL SERVICE HAS BEEN A PART OF MY LIFE FOR MANY YEARS.

I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL THE DECISION OF THE POSTAL SERVICE TO CLOSE THE WATSON POST OFFICE AND CONSOLIDATE WITH THE CPO AT BROOKSIDE. ON APRIL 29TH 2009 A TOWN HALL MEETING WAS HELD AT BROOKSIDE CITY HALL. THE TURN OUT WAS FOUR TO ONE FOR THE WATSON COMMUNITY. POSTAL OFFICIALS ATTENDING WERE MIKE ALLISON, RAFAEL BRATHWAITE, REGINALD CAPERS, STEVIE MASON, CARLIJHA GOREE AND APRIL WILLIAMS. THE OFFICIALS WERE ASKED IF A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND THEY SAID "NO" THE TOWN HALL MEETING WOULD BE THE DECIDING FACTOR. WE LATER OBTAINED A COPY OF THE CONTRACT (DOCUMENT ENCLOSED) AND IT HAD BEEN SIGNED ON APRIL 28TH 2009 BY THE MAYOR OF BROOKSIDE AND POSTAL OFFICIALS A DAY BEFORE THE TOWN HALL MEETING. WOULD THINK THIS WAS A VIOLATION OF THE POSTAL RULES. I FEEL THE POSTAL SERVICE HAS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST OUR COMMUNITY - NO CHANCE TO BID ON CPO FOR OUR COMMUNITY - NO TOWN HALL MEETING ON CLOSING THE WATSON OFFICE.

RESPECTFULLY,
JAMES C. PARSONS

Solicitation/Offer/Award for Firm-Fixe.
Contract Postal Unit (CPU)

*****FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY*****

1. Contract No. 2BCPAC-09-B- <u>0145</u>		2. Request No. R00018410827	3. Solicitation No. 2BCPAC-09-A-0106
4a. For Information Call: Name: LINDA C COOPER Purchasing and Supply Management Specialist	4b. Telephone No. 303.743.1258	4c. Fax No. 303.743.1251	4d. e-Mail Linda.c.cooper@usps.gov
5. Issued By Travel, Retail and Temporary Services US Postal Services - CPAC 3300 S Parker Rd., Ste. 400 Aurora CO 80014-3500	6. Soc/Ec Code <u>S</u>	7. UNSPC 8014170300	8. Admin Office Finance No. 013410
10. Supplier (Name and Mailing Address) Individual or Company Name: <u>Town of Brookside</u> DBA (if applicable) _____ Address/P.O. Box: <u>2711 Municipal Lane</u> <u>P.O. Box 142</u> City, State, Zip+4: <u>Brookside, AL 35036-0142</u>		11. CPU Physical Location CPU Site Name: <u>Brookside/Watson Community Post Office</u> CPU Physical Address: <u>4185 Municipal Drive</u> <u>Suite 105</u> City, State, Zip+4: <u>Brookside, AL 35036-</u>	

12. Contact Information

Contact Name: <u>Roger McCondichie</u>	Telephone No.: <u>205 674-1623</u>
e-Mail Address: <u>_____ .net</u>	Fax No.: <u>206 674-9547</u>
13a. Taxpayer Identification No. (TIN) or Social Security No. (SSN) <u>_____</u>	13b. Parent TIN (if applicable)

14a. COR Administrative Office Name
Gardendale Postmaster

14b. COR Administrative Office Address and Phone number
1752 Decatur Hwy, Gardendale, AL 35071-9998 205.631.3410

15 General Description of Requirement

- The supplier must provide dedicated space, services and equipment in compliance with the terms and conditions of this contract and all attachments hereto.
- The supplier must provide the postal goods and services specified herein in accordance with the provisions of the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) concerning those goods and services, including its mailing rates and service fees. The supplier may not impose a surcharge for services provided, or increase or decrease the rates and fees established in the DMM.
- The supplier must follow the procedures set out in Publication 116, Contract Postal Unit Operations Guide.

16. Compensation - The supplier agrees to operate a Contract Postal Unit (CPU) under the terms and conditions herein for the fixed annual price of \$60,000 (USPS will insert price at time of award).

17a. The supplier is required to sign this document and return to the issuing office. The supplier agrees, subject to the terms and conditions specified herein, to provide and deliver all items identified above and on any additional pages.

17b. Signature of Person Authorized to Sign <u>Roger McCondichie</u>	18a. Signature of Contracting Officer <u>Linda C Cooper</u>
17c. Printed Name and Title of Person Authorized to Sign <u>Roger McCondichie, Mayor</u>	18b. Printed Name of Contracting Officer Linda C Cooper
Date Signed <u>4-6-09</u>	Award Date <u>4-28-09</u>

Note: The supplier agrees that if this proposal is accepted by the Postal Service within ninety (90) calendar days from the solicitation return date, a binding contract will result. The supplier must set forth full, accurate and complete information as required by this document. The penalty for making false statements in proposals is prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

TOWN HALL MEETING WAS

4-19-09

Revised 04.22.08

Travel, Retail and Temporary Services Category Management Center



April 28, 2009

TOWN OF BROOKSIDE
2711 Municipal Lane, PO Box 142
Attn: Roger McCondichie
Brookside, AL 35036-0142

RE: Contract No. 2BCPAC-09-B-0145
Firm-fixed Contract Postal Unit, Brookside, AL

I am pleased to award you a firm-fixed CPU contract for the above-referenced location. You will be paid at the annual rate of \$60,000.00 as outlined in Part 1.1 of your contract. Please refer to the above-referenced contract number on all future correspondence.

Before your CPU can start operations, our office must receive written notification from the USPS CPU Coordinator that all training and site specification requirements have been complied with and accepted by the Postal Service. In addition, you must submit an original bond to your COR (see Attachment 1 of your contract).

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of this letter and contract document, you must complete the following:

- Obtain and submit to the COR an original surety bond in the amount of \$5,000.00, completed by a surety company approved by the U. S. Treasury Department. The Approved Sureties Listing Treasury Circular 570 can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.fms.treas.gov/c570/index.html>. Enclosed is a Contract Postal Unit bond form, with your contract number on it for your use.
- In accordance with the payment clause of your contract, payment for operation of the CPU will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). You must complete the enclosed direct deposit form. Upon completion of the direct deposit form, by both yourself and your financial institution, the original form should be sent to the address on the top of the form.

As the Contracting Officer for this CPU, I have designated as my authorized Contracting Officer's Representative (COR):

Postmaster
Gardendale
1752 Decatur Hwy
Gardendale, AL 35071-9998
205.631.3410

The COR will be your local contact on the overall operation of the CPU. A copy of the COR Notice of Appointment, detailing the COR's authorities and responsibilities in relation to contract performance is enclosed.

Page 2

Perhaps the most important aspect of the COR's authority is its limitations. Under no circumstance may a COR make changes that would affect the duration of the contract or the contract price. Please contact my office if you anticipate changes that would affect the overall time of performance or the price, or if you encounter problems that cannot be resolved with the COR. The contract will continue indefinitely unless it is terminated as provided in the Termination on Notice clause.

Please note that although the Postmaster has been appointed as the COR for this contract, the USPS CPU Coordinator, Stevie B Mason, is responsible for the coordination of this CPU project through its completion. He may be reached at 205.510.0745.

We appreciate your interest in meeting our requirements and we look forward to a mutually successful contract. If you have any questions pertaining to your contract, please contact Linda Cooper at (303) 743-1258.



Linda C Cooper
Contracting Officer
Contract Postal Access Channels

cc: Postmaster/COR
CPU Coordinator

Petition Against the Closing of the Watson Post Office

By Signing this Petition I strongly oppose the closing of the Watson Post Office

The facts were reported inaccurately in the documents supporting the closing.

The United States Postal Service had already signed a contract with the City of Brookside to run a combined CPO before any kind of notice for consideration of closing was posted.

NAME

ADDRESS

Thomas D. J.

Bailey Parsons

Jonny Nails

Kenneth L. Hill

Patricia Hill

Melton S. Brake

Irene Brake

Alon Albed

Penny Albed

Darryl E. Moore

Patricia L. Moore

Bertha M. Moore

SON-TAN LAWN CARE

Darryl M. Ball

Linda Ball

George W. Miller Jr.

Barbara E. Miller

Charles D. Manley

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NAME

ADDRESS

Linda K. Vacarella
 Linda K. Kirkpatrick
 Gerald Looney

SUNSHINE SUPPLIES, INC.

Audie's Lock & Key
 Audrey & Alecia Cummings
 Cherie Bottram & Michael Cummins
 Sam & Molly Lane
 Sean Lane
 Emma & Justin Osbell

Betty Brown
 Fieldstown Road Self Storage

George W. Miller Jr.
 Barbara E. Miller
 Janie Meadows

Joy Dulin
 Luther M. Myers

Ann A. Parsons
 Watson town & County

Dicki W. Jones
 Nikki Cambee
 Sharon M. Shuter

Lori Parsons
 Todd Parsons -

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NAME

ADDRESS

Michael D Avery

Lara Ammer

William D Amason

Randy McOth

Billy McE

Geer McE

Tracy Mc Duffie

Sammy Conner

Jeremy Conner

Mike Conner

JANET CONNER

CHUCK CONNER

Brandi Bost

Kay Owens

Brittney Weeks

Shelby Sanford

Cara Bennett

Ker Bennett

Lanell Westbrook

Randall Westbrook

Willie Mae Fields

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NAME

ADDRESS

Erison PARSONS
James C. Parsons
Geraldine Simpson
Paul Simpson
John Franklin
J.H. Franklin RBAFF Coast
Sinda Franklin
Glenda Creator
Debbie Bennett
Roger Bennett
Sylvia Brill
Josephine Burnett
A-1 Environmental
McDuffie Contract
Kim McDuffie
Rodney McDuffie
Brittney Weeks
Dewayne Weeks
Kortney McDuffie
Bobby Burnside
Patti Burnside

Lynn Bates
Joe Bates.

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NAME

ADDRESS

CHARLES NSAU

Lisa Patrick

Joel Cox

Casey Ware

Virgil Herron

Nancy Herron

Jeremy Butler

Nail Butth

Danette Parsons

Walter S. Highland

Mary Hogens

Boyle Bosnee

Julie Harris

Kelcie Parsons

Alan Oak Skelton

Doc Watson

My Book

Luke Patton

Robert L Estis

Elexia Early

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NAME

ADDRESS

Cecil Macdon

Crystal Myer

Bradi Foxhart

Kenneth Mwangi

Daniel Smith

Robert Smith

Keta Anderson

Glen Anderson

Joseph George

Anna Carter

Troy AR

Josh Buttz

Martha McDonald

Gary McDonald

Michael W McDonald

Dr. Brown

Ronald Brown

Francis Pickle
Miriam Drake D.
Lay Cooter
Donis Stephenson L.
Betty J. Cippa
Susan Lallan
Patricia L. Moe

Linda V. May

Bertha May Moore

Sale Reed

Pauline Reed II

Wendy Lambert

Scott Harlan

Rene Bradshaw

Brittanie Piteo

~~J. F. Homan~~

~~J. F. Homan~~

Michael R. Byram

Clara Hark

Nicole A. Jenkins L.

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NAME

ADDRESS

David Graham Jr.

Francis Pickle

Paul Hicks

Pete Meadows

Alan Schaff

Josh Pickle

Nancy Jenkins

Ray Jenkins

Braylon Pickle

Kayla Jenkins

Danell B. Brown

Tommy Guthrie

Mari S. Harlan

Donna Doss

Rocky Long

Debra Smith

Raymond Shultz

Bradley L. H.

Randall W. Gentile

Stephen & Ridge Corcoran

W. J. Ryder

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NAME

ADDRESS

Rebecca H Moore

Kenneth O Moore

Lora Robbins

Kenneth O Moore Jr.

Kristi Welch

M R Wiley

Judy Wiley

Brent Wiley

Jessie Wiley

Wendy Lambert

Rene M. Bradshaw

Lynn Chapman

Joe Fradette

Tim Ayer

Ken Archer

Lawrence Archer

Nick Chapman

Jewel Herson

James T. Herson

Debra Boock

Marilyn Frazer

Buddy Frazer

Name

23. Lisa D. Pichler

24. Randall R. Puth

25. Jason Pichler

26. Donnell Gooch

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Subject: Opposition to Closing the Watson, Alabama Post Office 35181

Dear Commission Members:

I was informed by a neighbor that the Watson, Alabama Post Office (Zip code 35181) is scheduled to be closed and a limited amount of services transferred to the Brookside, Alabama Post Office. I am a small business owner who works out of a home office. I emphatically oppose the closing of the Watson Post Office for a number of reasons:

1. The new location is substantially farther from my home.
2. The new location, unlike the Watson Post Office will not be able to conduct business and personal mailings, purchasing of stamps, boxes, and other shipping materials with debit cards or credit cards creating a situation where both my wife and I will be forced to travel to Gardendale, Alabama which is even farther in order to conduct routine business.
3. The existing (Watson) Post Office serves as a shelter for more than a half dozen children at the school bus stop in front of the post office. This shelter will be lost upon the post office closing.

In addition to opposing the closing of the Watson Post Office, I would like to formally complain about the process that has transpired thus far that has led to the apparently imminent closure of our post office. It is my belief that the USPS entered into contract negotiations with the Mayor/Town of Brookside to combine the Watson and Brookside Post Offices in Brookside many months prior to even notifying the residents of Watson, Alabama that this action was even being considered. I find it unconscionable that USPS actually signed the contract for such change with the Town of Brookside on April 28, 2011 and after the fact held a meeting with the residents of Watson, Alabama on April 29, 2011 advising that the change was still in a proposal status in order to obtain Watson residents' concerns in this matter. It is readily apparent that the concerns, challenges, and expense that this change will incur upon residents of Watson, as well as a number of the residents of Brookside were never a consideration by either the USPS or the mayor of Brookside. The following represent some additional issues that should be considered in making your final decision:

1. There exists a discrepancy in the amount of savings that will be gained by closing down the Watson Post Office. This should be resolved using the following information/criteria:
 - a. The population of Watson is increasing while the population of Brookside is at best static
 - b. Without the ability to use debit/credit cards, which has become a universal form of payment, the actual business generated by the Brookside operation will be minimal.

August 22, 2011

Postal Regularity Commission

This letter is in reference to the possible closing of the Watson Post Office.

I am employed by one of the new businesses in this area and we are in need of a local post office for our business mailings. I use this post office for both my personal use as well as company mailings. The closest post office would be 11 to 14 miles away and I am only 1 mile from the Watson post office. I work in this office full time with only very part time help, the other post office is also approximately 8 red lights away. A trip to the away post office takes time away from my office.

Since I married into a family from this area I also know a lot of these people are elderly and do not wish to drive in that area or are simply unable to do so, and their needs are served by having a local post office.

Thank you!



Betty Brown

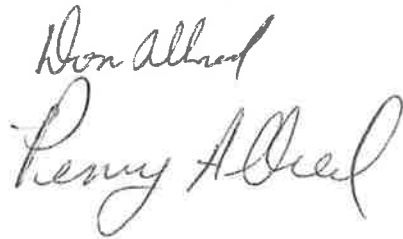
Fieldstown Road Self Storage

To whom it may concern,

We have Po box 81 at the Watson post office. We are Against the closing of the Watson Post office. We do have delivery available to our house address but do to mail not arriving and mail theft we decided to get a Po box several years ago in our local area which is Watson. We have no longer had problems receiving mail sense the purchase of the Po box. We understand the need in saving money but by shutting down the post office this will mean that we will have to find another branch to get a Po box and we would have to send change of address. It has been said that we could go to Brookside or Gardendale. For one the Brookside office is out of our way and Gardendale is already getting over crowded which makes it more time consuming and inconvenient. As we currently see with the Gardendale office you would have to look into the installation of more Po boxes which could lead to an expensive renovation of the building seeing how people in Mount Olive already had to move to this office and the possibility that Kimberly will have to do the same. It seems to us when you think of the overall expense that it would make it more cost efficient to let the Watson post office to continue serving their community. Also in case you are not aware this post office is a bus stop for the local children and shelters them from the elements as they wait for the bus. So please do not shut down this office.

Sincerely

Don and Penny Allred

The block contains two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Don Allred' and the second signature is 'Penny Allred'. Both are written in dark ink.

August 22, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Closing of the Watson, Alabama Post Office

I am writing in hopes of getting reconsideration about closing our local post office.

I know that we are a small community, but one that is located in an area that, in my opinion, will be growing by leaps and bounds soon. We have a major highway being completed, that will bring much traffic to the area and housing developments are springing up all around.

From my visits to the post office, I hear customers stating that they come to Watson because of the convenience and small town atmosphere.

I, also, am hearing that the Watson customers will not be going to the Brookside CPO. In the past, there has been speed traps in Brookside, which most people are aware of and will not drive in that area. Also, until Brookside annexed a convenience store into their town a few months ago, you could not buy a soft drink nor a gallon of gasoline in Brookside. At least, Watson has always had a store with gasoline and groceries.

Watson post office is very visible to the travelers in the area and accessible.

At Watson, I can purchase stamps and mail my packages and pay with my debit/credit card. That is not the case at Brookside CPO.

If Watson closes, I will not go to Brookside and I will not drive to Gardendale, which is 6 or 7 miles away, so you will lose my \$56.00 a year and I'm sure others too. Maybe the Post Office is doing so well, it doesn't need my money.

Thank you for any consideration you will give to this matter.

Sincerely,


Luther M. Myers

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue North West Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jane Meadows and my post office address is P.O Box 2, Watson, Alabama 35181. I oppose to the closing of the Watson, Alabama post office. This post office has a good record of giving very good service to its customers and that is the reason that other towns come to our post office for their mailing service and is not out of their way of traveling through our neighborhood to go shopping or on their way to work. I feel like the r post office has been not done right because of wrong information given about our post office and neighborhood. It was so much untruths in the letter that was sent to me from the postal service that was not true. We have 14 businesses in our area that use our post office. The post office has the equipment to handle our mailing needs and very good service. Please reconsider and keep our post office open. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Meadows".

Jane Meadows

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue North West Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

To whom it may concern:

My name is Irene Brake and my address is P.O.Box 5, Watson, Alabama 35181. I oppose the closing of the Watson post office. This post office is in a very convenient location and has easy assessable parking space, including the handicapped. The post office has always been open to the public and has a very good record and proficient mail delivery. I know economy is bad right now, but I feel that closing our post office will be a loss for the government. I feel like we wasn't treated fairly and the false information that was given about our neighborhood and post office was entirely wrong. I am asking you to keep our post office open and I am speaking for the entirely area, they feel the same way. Our community has access to I-65 for working people and on their way home or to work if they need to mail or buy stamps of money orders it don't take but a few minutes to do that because of the post office location that is in seeing distance about 300 feet from the heavily traveled road. We ask you to reconsider and keep our post office open. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene Brake". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Irene Brake

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue North West Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

To whom it may concern:

My name is Melton Brake and my address is P0 Box 5, Watson, Alabama 35181. I strongly oppose to closing of the Watson Post Office. My family and I have lived in this community all my life. This post office has served many surrounding nearby areas, even strangers passing through our town for years. It has never been closed due to any disaster. This post office is so convenient and has a good reputation of excellent service to its people.

The Brookside Post office was flooded as you know and its customers were transferred to our post office for postal service before the New CP0 post office was built in Brookside. The Brookside people used the Watson post office before Brookside's post office was built. What was wrong with that idea? Why couldn't that plan stay that way without a new post office in Brookside, if you wanted to save money.

There are people from Graysville, Brookside, Republic, Daisy City, Blossburg, Gardendale, that use our Watson post office daily because they have all the equipment at Watson for mailing. We were not informed that we needed at that time more boxes which we had room for and would have been less expensive for the government to pursue than the new one at Brookside that was built. You talk about saving money you could have saved the government money by doing that. I feel like we were done wrong by all the misinformation that I read in the letters that were later sent out to us about our post office and community. There are 14 businesses in our community that use our post office and is very convenient for them. We need our post office in this centralized location and we ask you to consider the real reason for closing of our post office. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We the people of the Watson community and surrounding communities ask you to keep our post office open. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Melton G. Brake". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Melton Brake

August 22, 2011

To: Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

From: Barry E. & Patricia L. Moore

Subject: Proposed Closure of Watson, AL
Post Office - 35181

It is my understanding that the Watson, Alabama Post Office is officially scheduled to close on November 5, 2011. I would like to bring several additional issues to your attention for further consideration. Please see "Attachment I" for these issues.

I am asking that you please review this added information and give further consideration to the Post Office at Watson, AL remaining in service indefinitely.

Sincerely,
Barry E. Moore
Patricia L. Moore

August 22, 2010

Attachment I

Page 1 of 4

- 1- The original cost savings quoted in the proposal to close the Watson, AL Post Office was approximately \$85,000. I understand that this has now been reduced to only \$25,000 per year.
- 2- I understand that the contract for further postal service was signed on April 28, 2009. by Brookside authorities. The community meeting with the people of Watson and the US Postal Representatives from the Birmingham, AL Office was held on April 29, 2009. At that meeting, the Birmingham Office Representative stated that the contract had not yet been signed. I have concern about the appropriateness of such.
- 3- The contract with the City of Brookside specifies that adequate parking space would be provided. Three designated parking spaces have been provided. There are at least three undesignated parking spaces at the Watson Post Office.
- 4- The Watson P.O. provides credit and debit card payment capability. The Brookside P.O. doesn't. Thus, people from other communities also go to the Watson P.O. for stamps, postal supplies, etc.

August 22, 2011

Attachment I

Page 2 of 4

- 5- In addition to serving the Watson Community, this post office provides convenient access to the US Postal System services to people from other communities (ie Adamsville, Forestdale, Brookside, Graysville, Gaudendale, Republic, etc.). This is due to the Watson P.O. being located near the intersection of county roads traveled regularly, by perspective customers, on their way to and from their work or shopping, etc.
- 6- The Watson population is approximately _____ based on the 2010 U.S. Census. If the Watson P.O. is closed, most of the people in this community would go to the Gaudendale Ala. Post Office for mail route delivery or rental of postal boxes. I ask, has the consideration of having to add additional staff at the Gaudendale P.O. to expand the route for customers added in this community? Further, are postal boxes available for rent at the Gaudendale P.O. Facility for those that wish to continue their postal services through rental of individual P.O. Boxes?

Continued - Next Page.

August 22, 2011

Attachment I

Page 3 of 4

- 7- Based on the population figures in Item 6 (population of 400 equating to 130 households) and the assumption that $\frac{1}{2}$ (50%) of the Watson households would continue to use the P.O. box rental arrangement at Gardendale; I have attempted to calculate the additional costs to the Watson customers as follows:

Assumptions:

$\frac{1}{2}$ of Watson households 130 \times 50% = 65

Average number of trips per week to P.O. = 4

Approximately 16 miles per round trip

Average vehicle gets 20 miles per gallon of gas

Gasoline costs - presently \$3.50 per gallon

Distance to Gardendale P.O. - 16 miles roundtrip

Calculations:

(1) $\frac{1}{2}$ Households (65) \times Nbr of Trips per wk (4) \times Round trip miles (16) = 4160 Miles per week.

(2) Gasoline Costs:

Miles Per Wk (4160) \div Average MPG (20) = 208 ^{Gas} Gal. ^{Wk}

Gals of Gas (208) \times Cost Per Gal. (\$3.50) = \$728⁰⁰

Gasoline Costs Per Wk (\$728⁰⁰) \times Wks Per Yr (52) = \$37,856⁰⁰

This is \$37,856⁰⁰ additional cost to the Watson Community postal customers as a result of its post office closing. Also, of significant importance is pollution added to the environment by the automobiles being used. Additional travel time to and from the Gardendale P.O. Facility is also of significance.

August 22, 2011

Attachment I

Page 4 of 4

- 8- I understand that other post offices, around the Gardendale Facility, are being closed and their services are to be provided by the Gardendale Post Office. Is this going to necessitate adding of additional personnel and possibly construction to expand the Gardendale P.O. Facility to accommodate the needed rental P.O. boxes and provide over-the-counter services?

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in response to the attempted closure of the Watson Post Office. I am still in complete disagreement with the closure of said Post Office for a myriad of reasons. The main reason that should be put forth on the focal point is one that falls under 101b Section 39 of the U.S. Code – No small Post Office will be closed for the purpose of an operating deficit.

I am under the impression that this is a continuance of the attempted closure back in April of 2009 during the opening of the Brookside CPO. I feel the fact that the original contract was signed prior to the meeting set forth by the Postal Service (contract signed on April 28th and meeting on April 29), it is apparent that a decision was made to close the Watson Post Office before a meeting, set up by the Postal Service, is in direct violation of your very own rules and regulations. That is as unprofessional as you can get. Please consider the fact that we here in Watson have no intention of laying down and rolling over on this issue. We will fight for our Post Office as long as we deem necessary.

I am including a copy of my original letter from April 2009, for reference in the debacle of information gathering that began this roller coaster of an adventure that is the attempt at closing the Watson Post Office.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration. I hope to hear some positive news in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tonya Nails".

Tonya Nails

Kenneth and Patricia Gill

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing this letter to indicate our desire to keep our post office in Watson, Al open as it has always been. We are both retired and do not get out much anymore than necessary. It is nice for us to have the post office close to the community we live in. It would be a great disadvantage for us to have to go to another city to get our mail. Please Do Not Close Our Post Office.

Kenneth Gill

To Postal Regulatory Commission,

Aug 22, 2011

Would you please consider leaving our (Watson Post Office) postoffice open. This little post office that serves so many families is a landmark and has been for so very long. My husband & I have a brain injured son and when I pull up to the post office, I can park right in the door and know that Michael is safe while I run inside. While I get my mail and stamps I can still see Michael. If I have to go to a larger post office it just makes it a lot more harder. My mail box at our home is down the gravel road about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile. The USPS will not let us have our mail box close to our home, because it is a private road (not by our choice). There are so many elder seniors that use the Watson Post Office and would have to drive ten or more miles to Gardendale or Brookside to do their business. We are very much in need of this postal service in Watson, Guatemala. So I am asking in behalf of our community and my family please don't close our post office.

Sincerely,

Wendy Smith

Dear Sir or Madam,

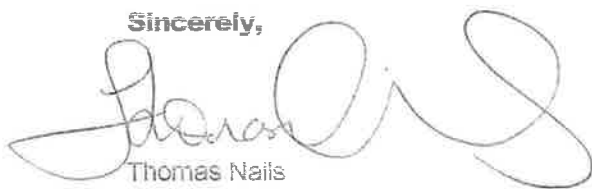
I am writing in response to the attempted closure of the Watson Post Office. I am still in complete disagreement with the closure of said Post Office for a myriad of reasons. The main reason that should be put forth on the focal point is one that falls under 101b Section 39 of the U.S. Code – No small Post Office will be closed for the purpose of an operating deficit.

I am under the impression that this is a continuance of the attempted closure back in April of 2009 during the opening of the Brookside CPO. I feel the fact that the original contract was signed prior to the meeting set forth by the Postal Service (contract signed on April 28th and meeting on April 29), it is apparent that a decision was made to close the Watson Post Office before a meeting, set up by the Postal Service, is in direct violation of your very own rules and regulations. That is as unprofessional as you can get. Please consider the fact that we here in Watson have no intention of laying down and rolling over on this issue. We will fight for our Post Office as long as we deem necessary.

I am including a copy of my original letter from April 2009, for reference in the debacle of information gathering that began this roller coaster of an adventure that is the attempt at closing the Watson Post Office.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration. I hope to hear some positive news in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thomas Nails', written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Thomas Nails

SON-TAN Lawn Care

SON-TAN Lawn Care
P.O. Box 34
Watson, AL 35181

August 23, 2011

~~Mike Allison~~
~~MPOC Area 3~~

~~351 24th Street North~~
~~Birmingham, AL 35203~~

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
901 - New York Ave, NW Suite 200
WASHINGTON DC 20268

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to vocalize my displeasure for the inappropriate research and knowledge that you provided in your proposal to close the Watson Post Office. There are several inaccuracies and/or misleading points scattered throughout the proposal which I will point out below.

The problems that I find most disturbing are as follows:

Page 1, 3rd paragraph, second sentence and following:

It states that space is limited and cannot accommodate the Brookside boxes.

(It was brought up, by the present building landlords, that a plan was conceived that would renovate the Watson Office in order to handle all of those boxes plus more during the town hall meeting held at the Brookside City Hall.)

It states there is only one parking space available.

(There is only one MARKED space but plenty of room for several vehicles. I have personally seen five to six vehicles, not counting the employee's vehicle, there at one time on many occasions. The present landlords also addressed this issue in offering to put in extra spaces if needed as they own property on both sides of the building.)

Upon reviewing your own survey questionnaires, you state that there were 36 out of 44 returned surveys that were not in favor of the proposal.

(The Postal Service seems content on proceeding against the apparent desire of the people.)

Page 3, Section II, 4th sentence and following:

The proposal implies that the only people that live in Watson are retired, farmers, and those who work outside the community.

(Notwithstanding the population of Watson has it's fair share of retirees, so does Brookside. As for farmers, if having a basic garden is what you qualify as a farmer you are not thinking as most of society thinks, in my personal opinion. Lastly, most people work outside the community in Watson and Brookside as the amount of commercial industry in both communities is minimal or none for the most part.)

The proposal states there are no religious institutions in the community.

(Mineral Springs Baptist Church is on the main road through the heart of Watson and has been in the community since the 4th Sunday in June in the year of 1898. It is actually the oldest active church in the Southern Baptist Association.)

Businesses include Andy's Lock and Key and Watson Town and Country Store.

(Even though those are the only ones listed, there are several home based businesses within the community. I am the owner of SON-TAN Lawn Care. I work mostly in the Gardendale area, but am based out of my home here in Watson. I am under the impression that there are several other home based businesses in the community but am unaware of there names or services.)

Residents of Watson travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

(This statement implies that the Watson residents must go outside the community for the majority of their needs and Brookside is self-serving. Brookside's retail sales for general services are almost identical to that of Watson, meaning they too must travel outside of their community for the majority of their services.)

Page 3, Section IV and following:

The economic savings for the closing of the Watson Post Office is \$42,151.00 and the savings for the closing of the Brookside Post Office is \$ 43,351.00 for a grand total of \$85,502.00 in savings to the United States Postal Service.

(My math may be off a little since high school; however, that savings total does include the cost to the United States Postal Service for the managing group of the new proposed CPO. The rumor mill from a retired postal worker claims that the contract would start out in the \$60,000.00 range – range meaning it could be less, or it could be more. Thusly the savings that is proposed is not anywhere in the neighborhood of \$85,502.00)

In summary I would like to say that, as a business owner and long-time resident of Watson, I am highly disappointed at the apparent lack of accurate information gathering by a Government Agency. When you begin to try and change the way a community is running by ignoring the people's voice, it becomes alarming. I have also been informed that a citizen of Watson asked to receive documentation to support this proposal and was denied immediate access. She was made to request all documentation through the legal red tape. It is quickly beginning to seem as if this proposal is on the fast track to becoming a reality. I realize that some things have to be done in a proper manner however not being helpful in something of this magnitude goes beyond being specific and borders on being hindering.

That being said I am against the proposal to close the Watson Post Office in any manner due to the perceived desire to mislead or misrepresent the residents who are going to be affected the most. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas Nails
Owner/Operator SON-TAN Lawn Care

8-22-2011

To Whom it may concern:

Please consider keeping the Watson Post Office open. It has been a part of this community for many, many years and provides a valuable service to many people.

Thank you for your consideration,

~~Kenneth O Moore~~

Kenneth O Moore

Rebecca H Moore

8-22-11

Postal Regulatory Commission

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a customer of the Watson Post Office. I am opposed to the closing of the Watson Office for the following reasons.

1. This is a small community post office that gives its customers the kind of service that is not given at larger offices due to time constraints. I think this office offers a true community service which is the reason for the establishment of the US Postal Service.

2. I believe that we as customers of this office were treated unfairly and illegally when on April 29th, 2009 we were lied to & told we would have input as to the future of this office when in fact ~~negot~~ a contract was negotiated with

the Postal Service and the mayor of Brookside for the opening of a contract station on Nov 28, 2008. This was directly to affect the closing of the Watson Office. The Contract was finalized on April 28, 2008 and our meeting with the Post Office officials from Birmingham was on April 29. We were told that no decisions had been made at that time. Clearly we were lied to and proper protocol was not followed.

I am for these reasons requesting that the Watson Post Office not be closed.

Thank you,
Rebecca Moore

8-22-2011

Dear Sirs,

I am asking that you consider my request to keep the Watson Post Office open because it serves a need to this community. There are many elderly people here who do not travel long distances and we need our post office to stay in our community. It provides a valuable service to the people in this area.

Thank You,

James T. Heron

James T. Heron

Jewel D. Heron

Jewel Heron